

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 6, 9, 27, 30, 32, 35, 37 and 40 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. to 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A print control apparatus as a host computer which is connected to an external [[a]] printing apparatus through an interface and executes a printer driver which generates print data described in the page description language to be interpreted by the external printing apparatus, comprising:

a spooler that saves intermediate data to be converted into the print data and converted from graphic information generated by a graphic engine based on a print request printed, which is issued from an application, together with a designated number of copies of a document to be printed based on the saved data;

a spool file manager that checks if a print instruction is a test print instruction, that changes the number of copies to 1 when the test print is instructed, and that outputs the intermediate data ~~to be printed~~ saved in the spooler together with the number of copies which has been changed to 1 for the test print of documents to be printed in response to the print instruction for printing at the print apparatus;

a generation unit that generates the print data with the printer driver based on reads the intermediate data and to be printed with the number of copies which has been changed to 1 for the test print of documents to be outputted by said ~~spool-file~~ spool file manager ~~and generates the print data~~; and

a transmission unit that ~~transmits~~ ~~transmit~~ the print data generated by said generating unit to the printing apparatus,

wherein, when a test print is instructed, said generation unit generates the print data which is described in the page description language with the number of copies which has been changed to to ~~[[into]]~~ 1 for a test print, and

wherein, when normal print of the document is instructed after the print data for the test print generated by said generating unit has been transmitted to the printing apparatus, said generating unit reads the intermediate data ~~to be printed~~ saved by the spooler and generates the print data which is described in the page description language with the printer driver.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the print instruction is not the test print instruction, said spool file manager deletes the output data from said spooler.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the print instruction is the test print instruction, said generation unit generates the print data with a number of copies having a value obtained by subtracting the number of copies output in a test print process from the designated number of copies after said spool file manager outputs the data.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 6,

wherein the intermediate data stored in said spooler is ~~intermediate~~ data before being converted into a format to be output to the printing apparatus, and when the print instruction is the test print instruction, said spool file manager changes a setup related to a content to be printed associated with the intermediate data saved in said spooler after said spool file manager outputs the intermediate data, and

wherein said generating unit reads the intermediate data saved in the spooler and generates print data based on the setup related to the content to be printed and the intermediate data with the printer driver when the setup related to the content to be printed has been changed.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said spool file manager changes the number of copies associated with the data saved in said spooler after said spool file manager outputs the data when the print instruction is the test print instruction, and resets the number of copies to the designated number of copies when the print instruction is not the test print instruction and when the number of copies has been changed.

11. (Original) A print system which is constructed by connecting a print control apparatus of claim 6 and a printing apparatus and prints based on data output from output step of said print control apparatus.

12. to 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) A print control apparatus as a host computer which is connected to an external ~~[[a]]~~ printing apparatus through an interface and executes a printer driver which generates print data described in the page description language to be interpreted by the external printing apparatus comprising:

spooling means for saving intermediate data to be converted into the print data and converted from graphic information generated by a graphic engine based on a print request ~~printed, which is issued~~ from an application, together with a designated number of copies;

spool file managing means for checking if a print instruction is a test print instruction, changing the number of copies to 1 when the test print is instructed, and outputting the intermediate data ~~to be printed~~ saved in the spooling means together with the number of copies which has been changed to 1 for the test print ~~of documents to be printed~~ in response to the print instruction for printing at the print apparatus;

generation means for generating the print data with the printer driver based on reading the intermediate data and to be printed with the number of copies which has been changed to 1 for the test print ~~of documents to be~~ outputted by said spool-file ~~spool file~~ managing means ~~and generates the print data~~; and

a transmission means that transmits the print data generated by said generating means to the printing apparatus,

wherein, when a test print is instructed, said generation means generates the print data which is described in the page description language with the number of copies which has been changed to ~~[[into]]~~ 1 for a test print, and

wherein, when normal print of the document is instructed after the print data for the test print generated by said generating means has been transmitted to the printing apparatus, said generating means reads intermediate the data ~~to be printed~~ saved by the spooler and generates the print data which is described in the page description language with the printer driver.

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein when the print instruction is not the test print instruction, said spool file managing means deletes the output data from said spooling means.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein when the print instruction is the test print instruction, said generation means generates the print data with a number of copies having a value obtained by subtracting the number of copies output in a test print process from the designated number of copies after said spool file managing means outputs the data.

30. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the intermediate data stored in said spooling means is ~~intermediate~~ data before being converted into a format to be output to the printing apparatus, and when the print instruction is the test print instruction, said spool file managing means changes a setup related to a content to be printed associated with the intermediate data saved by said spooling means after said spool file managing means outputs the intermediate data, and

wherein said generating unit reads the intermediate data saved in the spooler and generates print data based on the setup related to the content to be printed and the intermediate data with the printer driver when the setup related to the content to be printed has been changed.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said spool file managing means changes the number of copies associated with the data saved by said spooling means after said spool file managing means outputs the data when the print instruction is the test print instruction, and resets the number of copies to the designated number of copies when the print instruction is not the test print instruction and when the number of copies has been changed.

32. (Currently amended) A print control method at a host computer which is connected to an external [[a]] printing apparatus through an interface and executes a printer driver which generates print data described in the page description language to be interpreted by the external printing apparatus, comprising:

a saving step of saving intermediate data to be converted into the print data and converted from graphic information generated by a graphic engine based on a print request printed, which is issued from an application, together with a designated number of copies of a document to be printed based on the saved data [[n]];

a spool file managing step of checking if a print instruction is a test print instruction, changing the number of copies to 1 when the test print is instructed, and outputting the intermediate data to be printed saved in the spool file together with the

number of copies which has been changed to 1 for the test print of documents ~~to be printed~~ in response to the print instruction for printing at the print apparatus;

a generating step of generating the print data with the printer driver based on reading the intermediate data to be printed and ~~[[with]]~~ the number of copies which has been changed to 1 for the test print of documents ~~to be~~ outputted in said spool-file spool file managing ~~and generates step the print data~~; and

a transmission step that transmits the print data generated by said generating step to the printing apparatus,

wherein, when a test print is instructed, said generating step generates the print data which is described in the page description language with the number of copies which has been changed to ~~[[into]]~~ 1 for a test print when print of the document is instructed after the print data for the test print generated by said generating step has been transmitted to the printing apparatus, said generating step reads the intermediate data to be printed saved by the spooler and generates the print data which is described in the page description language with the printer driver.

33. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein said spool file managing step further includes a step of deleting the output data from the spool file when the print instruction is not the test print instruction.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein said generating step further includes a step of, when the print instruction is the test print instruction, generating the print data with a number of copies having a value obtained by

subtracting the number of copies output in a test print process from the designated number of copies after the data is output in said spool file managing step.

35. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 32, wherein the intermediate data stored in the spool file is ~~intermediate~~ data before being converted into a format to be output to the printing apparatus, [[and]]

wherein said spool file managing step further includes a step of, when the print instruction is the test print instruction, changing a setup related to a content to be printed associated with the intermediate data saved in the spool file after the intermediate data is output in said spool file managing step, and

wherein said generating step includes a step of reading the intermediate data saved in the spooler and generating print data based on the setup related to the content to be printed and the intermediate data with the printer driver when the setup related to the content to be printed has been changed.

36. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein said spool file managing step further includes a step of changing the number of copies associated with the data saved in the spool file after outputting the data saved in the spool file together with the number of copies to be printed when the print instruction is the test print instruction, and a step of resetting the number of copies to the designated number of copies when the print instruction is not the test print instruction and when the number of copies has been changed.



37. (Currently amended) A computer program embodied in a computer readable storage medium that is executable in a host computer which is connected to an external [[a]] printing apparatus through an interface and executes a printer driver which generates print data described in the page description language to be interpreted by the external printing apparatus, comprising:

a saving procedure code means for saving intermediate data to be converted into the print data and converted from graphic information generated by a graphic engine based on a print request printed, which is issued from an application, together with a designated number of copies of a document to be printed based on the saved data;

a spool file managing procedure code means for checking if a print instruction is a test print instruction, changing the number of copies to 1 when the test print is instructed, and outputting the intermediate data to be printed saved in the spool file together with the number of copies which has been changed to 1 for the test print documents to be printed in response to the print instruction for printing at the print apparatus;

a generating procedure code means for generating the print data with the printer driver based on reading the intermediate data and to be printed with the number of copies which has been changed to 1 for the test print of documents to be outputted by said spool-file ~~spool file~~ managing procedure code means ~~and generates the print data~~; and

a transmission procedure that transmits the print data generated by said generating procedure to the printing apparatus,

wherein, when a test print is instructed, by said generating procedure code means, the print data which is described in the page description language with the number of copies which has been changed to ~~[[into]]~~ 1 for a test print, and

wherein, when normal print of the document is instructed after the print data for the test print generated by said generating procedure code means has been transmitted to the printing apparatus, said generating procedure code means reads the intermediate data ~~to be printed~~ saved by the spooler and generates the print data which is described in the page description language with the printer driver.

38. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 37, wherein said spool file managing procedure code means further includes a step of deleting the output data from the spool file when the print instruction is not the test print instruction.

39. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 37, wherein, when the print instruction is the test print instruction, said generating procedure code means further includes a step of generating the print data with a number of copies having a value obtained by subtracting the number of copies output in a test print process from the designated number of copies after the data saved in the spool file is output by said spool file managing procedure code means.

40. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein the intermediate data stored in the spool file is ~~intermediate~~ data before being converted into a format to be output to the printing apparatus, and

wherein said spool file managing procedure code means further includes a step of, when the print instruction is the test print instruction, changing a setup related to a content to be printed associated with the intermediate data saved in the spool file after the intermediate data saved in the spool file is output by said spool file managing procedure code means, and

wherein said generating procedure code means reads the intermediate data saved in the spooler and generates print data based on the setup related to the content to be printed and the intermediate data with the printer driver when the setup related to the content to be printed has been changed.

41. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 35, wherein said spool file managing code means further includes a step of changing the number of copies associated with the data saved in the spool file after the data saved in the spool file is output when the print instruction is the test print instruction, and a step of resetting the number of copies to the designated number of copies when the print instruction is not the test print instruction and when the number of copies has been changed.